

HARDWARE DECODING OF MEDIA STREAMS FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Digital media streams are received by a cable set top box (STB) from multiple sources, such as cable television and IP (Internet Protocol) sources. The STB includes a standard video tuner and a demodulator/demultiplexer for receiving an encoded media stream from a cable television source. In addition, the STB

10 includes a modem device and CPU for receiving an encoded media stream from an IP source. The STB further includes a stream selector, which selectively receives an encoded media stream from either (1) the video tuner and demodulator/demultiplexer or (2) the modem device and CPU, for transmission to a hardware-based decoder.